



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES February 18, 2020

Mr. Dave Shipman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Jim Cowell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at Greene County Conservation District Conference Room, 22 West High St., Waynesburg, PA.

Those in attendance were as follows:

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Jim Cowell-Chairman; Commissioner Belding-Commissioner Representative; Dave Shipman-Farmer Director; Melissa Adamson-Public Director. Associate Directors: Jerry Day; George Scull; Keith Golden; Becky Salosky; Dominick Barbetta and Carol Adamson.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Assistant Manager/Environmental Program Specialist; Zack Basinger-Environmental Program Specialist; Ben Schweiger-Conservation Technician; Sara Hlatky-Conservation Technician; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and April Morris-Fiscal Officer.

GUEST AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Jeremy Kelly-Greene County Planning and Economic Development (GCPC); Phil Evans Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Stuart Demanski-PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Glodenna Halstead was unable to attend the February meeting and will take Oath of Office at the next scheduled meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections to the January 21, 2020 minutes as follows:

William Wentzel-Public Director, term to expire on December 31, 2023.

Greg Hopkins-Farmer Director, term to expire on December 31, 2023 and will take the position held by Michael Belding, Farmer Director

A vacant position, being discussed by the commissioners, to fill the remaining term of Jim Jones.

Melissa Adamson-Public Director, term to expire on December 31, 2021 to fill the remaining term of Thomas Headlee.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the January 21, 2020 minutes with corrections. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Morris noted bank signature cards were ready for Community and First Federal signatories listed at the January 2020 meeting.

A motion was made by Melissa Adamson to approve the treasurer's report. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

State Ethics Forms for Director Completion by April 30, 2020

Ms. Snider noted the state ethics forms were sent out in January packets and need turned in soon. Only a few board members have not returned the form.

2020 District Directors and Associate Directors Contact Information

Ms. Snider added the contact information sheet needs returned by board and associate board members. Updated information and whether the mileage driven to monthly meetings is donated to the Envirothon funding.

Back to Basics Workshop-Dates and Locations vary

Ms. Snider stated Dave Shipman, Bill Wentzel, George Scull, and Melissa Adamson have signed up for this workshop. Anyone else wanting to sign up can do so and Lisa will check to see if the district vehicle can transport everyone to the location.

PACD State Budget Information

Ms. Snider included PACD State Budget information in the meeting packet showing the conservation budget line item didn't change. There was a move in the line item from the Growing Greener budget area. Ms. Snider stated funding should stay the same for 2020.

Miss Agriculture USA

Ms. Snider received a thank you letter in the mail from Miss Agriculture USA thanking the district for their support of the program on behalf of Abigail Yenchik.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski noted Envirothon donations recently received so far this year included R&D Watters, a new donation this year, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wentzel. Lindsay added today was the last day to order shirts with the conservation district logo through Fanatic Impressions. Mr. Barbetta mentioned Ten Mile Paving may donate towards the Envirothon. Ms. Kozlowski will submit a letter to the company.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger went on a few complaint calls regarding excessive water due to all the rain. Permits have slowed down this month. Mr. Cowell mentioned a dozer sitting on the Frye Lumber site. Zack stated Frye Lumber received notice from DEP on violations regarding that site.

Ben Schweiger – Mr. Schweiger stated Gene Saurborn's heavy use area and manure storage facility is completed and receipts were submitted for reimbursement from the district.

Sara Hlatky - Ms. Hlatky received the revised nutrient management plan from Washington County Conservation. Sara noted next Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 5:00pm there is a REAP Program workshop. This workshop will help explain the program.

Jared Zinn – Mr. Zinn attended the staff conference February 12-13, 2020 in State College and noted the riparian buffers program through DCNR. There is now more flexibility in some of the DEP programs allowing a smaller buffer to help the burden on landowners.

Lisa Snider – Ms. Snider is working on the annual report for 2019 and asked for photos. Lisa placed hats on the tables and chairs for board and associate board members. Ms. Snider has appointed different staff members to various meetings within the county such as planning commission, extension, and township meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

There were no requests for assistance to bring before the board.

2020 GCCD Delegates

Ms. Snider asked for a name of someone to fill in for PACD Delegate position. This position would require the individual to attend the meeting in the case Ms. Snider is unavailable. Ms. Melissa Adamson volunteered.

West Greene School District STEAM Renovations

Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski attended the STEAM meeting. The program is not building anything new but rather renovating the inside of the school on a couple floors. The renovation will bring all math and science classes to one wing for students. This will help students when working on projects or experiments so the projects are not torn down to allow another class to use the same working area. The district also wants to incorporate technology. The contributions will benefit the rebuild and changes needed for the school district to implement the STEAM program. The school district is trying to raise three million to complete the necessary changes. The improvements will include the FFA program at West Greene School and bring in programs to see what future endeavor the student may want to pursue. Ms. Snider added after speaking with the State Conservation Commission the district may want to consider purchasing equipment or supplies towards agricultural programs instead of donating money for renovations.

After a discussion a motion was made by Melissa Adamson for Ms. Lisa Snider, on behalf of the Greene County Conservation District, to write a letter to West Greene School District stating the district would support supplying equipment and supplies for agricultural programs once the renovations are completed. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

2020 Greene County Conservation District Committees

Mr. Cowell asked is anyone else was interested in signing up for committees. Mr. Keith Golden asked to be added to Dirt and Gravel and E&S control and compliance committees. Mr. Cowell noted anyone could sign-up at any time for any committee.

Associate Board Members-Mickey Lemley

Ms. Snider received an email from Mickey Lemley, of Perry Township, interested in being an associate board member.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve Mikey Lemley as an associate board member. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Sunshine Law Update

Ms. Snider included a synopsis of the new House Bill 1069. The House Bill states an agenda, with all items being discussed, must be posted on the website 24 hours before the meeting takes place. No changes can take place to the agenda after the 24 hours has passed. The new law will be effective as of March 2020, at this time nothing has been listed on the Pennsylvania website stating this law has passed.

Chapter 102-105 Fee Schedule Revision

Ms. Kozlowski handed out information regarding a revision to the 102/105 Fee Schedule. The E&S Control and Compliance committee went over the fee schedule and decided on some changes. Ms. Kozlowski stated the biggest changes were fees starting at \$350 instead of \$300. Projects with 10 or more acres cost \$2000 plus \$200 per additional acre. A One-acre area is now \$800 from \$600 and five acres will be \$1300 instead of \$1100. The change in the one-acre amount is due to a NPDES permit being

required in turn more of a review process for conservation staff. At five acres an ESCGP is required and again causes more of a review process for conservation staff. A new fee was included called an impact fee for 105 permits. This is a \$50 per impact fee to help supplement the loss of permits taken over by DEP. Also, an increase in timber harvesting fees. The fees began at \$100 and are now starting at \$300 and up. No policy changes were made for the fee schedule. Updates made to the requirements for how long applicants have to respond and anything submitted after 2:00pm will be stamped next business day.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve changes to the 102/105 fee schedule. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

Greene County FFA Improvement Association

Ms. Snider stated a \$1,500.00 donation has been made to the Greene County FFA Improvement Association for the past several years and would like to make this a continuous donation until the budget no longer allows.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve yearly donation for the Greene County FFA Improvement Association for \$1,500.00. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Women's Farm Bureau Conference

Ms. Carol Adamson, along with other women in Greene County, would like to incorporate farming information to school students. On July 8, 2020, there is a conference for women in Greene and local counties at Orndorff's Farm. The event is open to everyone and a response will be required if attending the event. The focus of the conference is how farms change from one practice to another without losing the farming aspect. The keynote speaker is Mrs. Patterson. Mr. George Scull will submit information regarding the event for the newsletter. Mr. Cowell suggested the conservation district attend advertise the programs available out to attendees.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

There was no additional outreach.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Mr. Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning and Economic Development, attended a tax abatement meeting on Friday, February 14, 2020. Mr. Basinger attended the previous planning commission meeting. Mr. Kelly is planning to visit some sites that have come through planning commission.

Mr. Phil Evans, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), gave the board members the Annual Civil Rights Responsibilities Form to sign. Mr. Evans noted a job opening on the USAjobs website located in Fayette County. Phil stated program deadlines for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Security Program (CSP) has been extended, with the new farm bill, until February 28, 2020. A new

mapping software is being implemented in March 2020 will shut down the old mapping system. Phil is attending a leadership training in Washington D.C. the end of April 2020.

Mr. Stuart Demanski, PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), added E-permitting for districts on the Chapter 102 program to begin testing later in the year. There is a push to get rid of paper altogether.

Ms. Snider added Penn State Extension office visited the conservation office last week and have hired a new agronomist.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

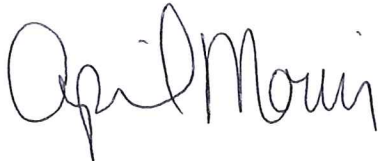
NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Next Regular Meeting will be March 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

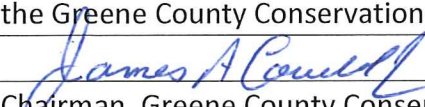
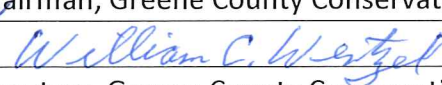
ADJOURNMENT

***With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Belding to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. Dave Shipman seconded.
(Motion Passed)***

Respectfully submitted,



April Morris
Fiscal Officer

<u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u>
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on <u>May 19</u> , 2020.

Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District